

Jesus did not Die - Jesus Lives!

The Quran is an amazing and beautiful gift that reminds us of the truth of God's word and helps elevate and reinforce our understanding of both the Scriptures and of the Gospel. The Quran is a reminder, so it needs to be read in its historical context, and in the context of Scripture and in the context of all the verses the Quran presents to us. There is no need to imagine that the Quran challenges the historical truth of Jesus' crucifixion and death on the cross for the Quran repeatedly declares the scriptures and the Gospel to be true.

One of the truths that the Quran reminds us of is that Jesus did not Die! The Quran says:

"That they said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah";- but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:-" 4:157

This verse is wrongly imagined to deny the Gospel story of Jesus crucifixion and death but it is instead speaking against the boasting of the Jews, (the People of the Book), who believed that their ancestors had killed Jesus and imagine in their ignorance and unbelief that they had done God's work. But as the Quran reminds us, they had no reason to boast.

"they killed him not, nor crucified him"

The Jews did not have power to carry out any sentence of death because they were under the authority of Rome and were not allowed to execute any man (John 18:31). During the Roman occupation of Jerusalem, the Jews had to give any prisoners over to the Romans for sentencing and so they brought Jesus Pilate for sentencing.

These verses remind us that the Jews did not stone him to death but gave him to the Romans for judgement and while they nailed him to the cross, Jesus did not die from crucifixion. It usually takes several days for a person to die from crucifixion because they eventually die from asphyxiation.

The weight of the body restricted breathing and eventually exhaustion would prevent air to enter the lungs. However, Jesus did not die from asphyxiation. When the Romans broke the legs of the two criminals next to Jesus to speed up their death, they found that Jesus was already dead (John 19:32).

The Jews have no reason to boast, even though persuaded Pilate to sentence an innocent man to death, they neither killed him nor crucified him.

Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep". John 10:11

"I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again." John 10:17-18

The Quran confirms that Jesus was an innocent man and declares that he is the Messiah, (the anointed high priest and rightful King of Israel). It reminds us that Jesus willingly gave his life

in obedience to God. Jesus was beaten, whipped and mocked and hung on a cross. Jesus gave up the spirit and the Roman soldier pieced his side with a spear; blood and water flowed from the wound.

Jesus did not die from crucifixion and even though died physically of a broken or ruptured heart, and was laid in a tomb, his body see corruption (Acts 2:31).

Jesus did not die because he was resurrected on the third day as according to Scriptures (Hosea 6:2).

The Jews could do nothing; they could not kill him or kill his claim to be the Messiah. He was innocent, a man without sin and he faced God's judgement and lived. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our King and Messiah who lives and reigns.

Jesus lost nothing in death, neither his name nor any titles. He was born as the king of Israel and was he resurrected as the King.

False assertion:

The Qur'an denies that Jesus died on the cross.

Correction: The Quran focuses on the boasting and unbelief of the Jews and states that no one can boast for the Jews neither killed nor crucified him. This one verse in the Quran is not questioning the historical accuracy of Jesus' death on the cross.

False assertion:

Someone else died in Jesus' place.

Correction: While some commentaries and translations of the Quran suggest that someone died in Jesus' place, these words are insertions and not found in the text of the earliest Qurans.

False assertion:

Jesus did not die on the cross.

Correction:

There is no doubt the Jesus physically died on the cross. We always need to read any verse in its context and the verses following 4:157 speak of his death. The Quran reminds us of the resurrection to come and that God raised Jesus from death and raised him to himself, (to sit at his right hand). The Quran also reminds us that belief came after Jesus' death and resurrection.

"Nay, Allah raised him unto Himself; and Allah is Exalted in Power, Wise;"

Q 4:158

"There is not one of the People of the Book but will assuredly believe in him before his death, and on the Resurrection Day he [Jesus] will be a witness against them." Q 4:159

The Quran tells us that Allah can give life to the dead (Q 2:73) and Mohammad preached of the resurrection of the dead on the last day. There is nothing in the Quran that gives us any reason to doubt that Jesus did not die on the cross. Even as an infant Jesus declared.

"And peace on me on the day I was born, and on the day I die, and on the day I am raised to life." Q 19:33

God has also declared of Jesus.

"Lo! God said: "O Jesus! Verily, I shall cause thee to die, and shall exalt thee unto Me, and cleanse thee of those who are bent on denying the truth; and I shall place those who follow thee [far] above those who are bent on denying the truth, unto the Day of Resurrection..." Q 3:55 (Asad)

"but so it was made to appear to them"

It appeared to the Jews and even Jesus' disciples that he was dead. They focused on the physical death that we all face but the Bible and the Quran tell us that man faces a much more serious threat than dying. All of us will die, but God warns us of a second everlasting lasting death. On the Last Day, God will resurrect both the righteous and the unrighteous, some will be resurrected to everlasting life, others to eternal death. The Quran reminds us that we need to be born again before the Last Day.

Irrespective of whether we call ourselves Christians or Muslims, we should not allow the misunderstanding of one verse to dictate our understanding of the whole Quran. Instead, read the Quran in its historical and literary context. Do not harden your heart but trust that God has preserved his word. Be a believer, a true Believer and let us all work together to rid ourselves of all false teachings.

It is appointed unto men once to die and then face judgment (Hebrews 9:27), but Jesus did not die the final death. Jesus has faced God's judgement as an innocent man and God raised him to eternal life. Jesus did not enter the final everlasting death that awaits the sinful and the unrighteous after judgement. He was innocent of any sin, so death could not hold him (Acts 2:24).

As Christoph Luxenberg's translation of Surah 72:19 shows us, the Quran is very much a Christian Quran. Luxenberg translation is significantly different from currently accepted translations, yet it is very much in line with what the Quran repeatedly reminds us.

"And after the Servant of God (Jesus) was resurrected they would have almost worshipped him (as God)." Q 72:19